**Title:** Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Andhra Pradesh to mitigate the hardship being faced by cotton growers due to drought conditions in the State - Laid.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (CUDDAPAH): Sir, the cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh have been victims of drought conditions. The continuous loss to the farmers due to the drought has led to a number of suicides in the past. During the last year, a number of cotton growers had committed suicide due to the loss of crops and heavy burden of debt against them. This year also a number of cotton farmers were unable to clear mounting farm debts, four people including a farmer committed suicide in two incidents in Nalgonda and Cuddapah districts of Andhra Pradesh recently.

The cotton growers have been since victims and neither State nor the Union Government had been able to solve their problems. Therefore, this is high time that Government of India should come forward and provide help and assistance to the cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh so that they are not forced to commit suicide in future.